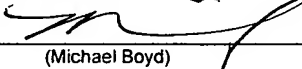


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EL961005774US, in an envelope addressed to: MS Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: 12-31-03 Signature: 
(Michael Boyd)

Docket No.: 219002031111
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Rodney A. JUE et al.

Application No.: Not Yet Assigned

Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: VASCULAR ENDOTHELIAL GROWTH
FACTOR DIMERS

FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MS Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, Applicant respectfully requests entry on this Preliminary Amendment for the above-captioned patent application.